(b) to (f) India has a natural comparative advantage in agricultural exports because of our lower import needs of inputs, our reasonable labour costs, and our diverse agro-climatic conditions. Government has, therefore, decided to accord high priority to agricultural exports and has already chalked out a strategy in this connection. While maximising foreign exchange earnings from the agricultural sector, as well as maximising returns to farmers, the strategy would be to do so in a manner that it does not compromise our food security. A special thrust is being given to exports of horticultural produce and processed foods. Towards this end substantial allocations have already been made in the Eighth Plan.

With the exchange rate adjustments, the introductions of a unified exchange rate, the lowering of customs duties, easier availability of credit for experts on softer terms, and changes and simplifications in the EXIM policy and P-recodures, there is an environment in the country today which is highly condueive for exports. Within this environment, the specific programmes undertaken or proposed to be undertaken for the agricultural sector are expected to substantially stepup agricultural exports within the Eighth Plan period.

Agri-exports provide an expanded market to the farmers and therefore, help them in obtaining higher prices. This is likely to result in a more efficient utilisation of land, labour and capital.

The importance attached to the export of agricultural commodities is reflected in para 10 of the Draft Agricultural Policy Resolution laid on the Tabel of Lok Sabha by the Union Minister of Agriculture.

Production and consumption of F.C.V. Tobacco

3334. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total production of F.C.V. tobacco, domestic consumption and export demand for the last ten years, including this year;

(b) what is the unit value realisation to the grower as well as to the exporter; and

(c) what are the corresponding figures in other tobacco growing and exporting countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) The available figures of production and export of FCV tobacco are given below :

Year	Production (M. Kgs. in green weight)	Actual exports (M.Kgs. in packed weight)
1983-84	...	78.782
1984-85	107.05	58.142
1985-86	98.08	50.579
1986-87	113.74	51.720
1987-88	59.34	31.025
1988-89	116.21	29.445
1989-90	100.81	35.370
1990-91	109.49	47.017
1991-92	159.19	49.622
1992-93	152.00 (Provisional)	53.00 (Projections)

It is presumed that the balance quantity left after exports was domestically utilised.

(b) Unit value realisation to the grower and the exporter is as follows :—

(Unit Value : Rs./Kg.)

Year	Grower Price realised	Export Price realisation
1983-84	—	22.62
1984-85	10.79	24.00
1985-86	12.24	24.93
1986-87	8.72	25.43
1987-88	15.33	25.32
1988-89	17.05	28.10
1989-90	15.44	31.50
1990-91	31.78	35.23
1991-92	30.03	50·48
1992-93	27.14 (X)	64.56 (Y)

(X)=Average of Karnataka crop marketed as on 19-2-93

(Y)=Unit value realisation for the period April'92 Jan. '93.

(C) : Unit value realisation to the grower and the exporter of FCV tobacco in some of the tobacco growing and exporting countries are given below.—

(Unit value realisation to the Grower)

(US dollar per Kg.)

Country	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
Canada	2.93	2.59	2.75	2.92	2.92	2.35	2.57	2.20
United States	3.92	3.99	3.79	3.73	3.51	3.55	3.69	3.65
Argentina	1.93	2.39	2.24	2.20	1.85	1.04	1.05	1.05
Brazil	0.16	0.54	0.30	0.32	0.98	0.93	1.37	1.41
Germany	3.22	2.92	3.10	4.09	5.00	4.55	4.76	4.62
Italy	2.63	2.95	2.26	3.05	3.49	3.77	3.75	4.57
Malawi	2.13	1.61	1.38	1.63	3.79	2.06	1.87	2.39
South Africa	4.70	3.27	2.73	2.87	3.93	3.89	3.76	4.59
Zimbabwe	1.91	1.69	1.74	1.88	1.31	2.21	2.03	2.34
Japan	7.28	7.39	7.39	10.45	11.55	13.04	14.07	13.38
Korea	3.46	2.77	2.70	2.79	3.40	4.40	5.31	5·43
Republic of Philippines	1.03	0.78	0.83	0.75	0.85	0.75	1.15	0.93
Thailand	1.46	1.42	1.30	1.66	1.04	1.62	1.64	1.75
Australia	4.20	4.29	3.56	3.51	3.74	4.37	4.54	3.45

Note:—For 1991 & 1992 the corresponding figures of other countries are not available]

Source : USDA Publications.

(Unit value realisation to the Exporter)

Country	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
United States	6.91	6.85	6.46	6.16	6.43	6.25	6.50	6.73
Brazil	2.31	2.46	2.10	2.00	2.15	2.69	3.10	4.00
Zimbabwe	2.80	2.15	1.75	2.30	1.60	2.54	2.36	2.92
Korea Rep. of	4.47	3.08	3.05	2.78	2.65	2.95	3.37	4.15
Canada	5.38	3.98	2.85	2.84	2.94	3.11	3.87	3.14
Thailand	2.78	2.25	2.20	2.18	2.25	1.91	2.45	2.92
Malawi	2.12	2.22	2.41	2.58	4.25	3.13	2.98	3.42
South Africa	2.01	1.78	2.05	2.30	2.81	—	—	—
Philippines	1.47	1.35	1.34	1.36	1.45	1.55	1.88	2.48
Italy	1.72	1.58	2.39	2.03	2.05	1.48	1.50	3.22
Argentina	—	—	—	1.82	1.73	1.74	1.71	1.89

Note :—Unit value realisations for the year 1991 are not available.
Source : USDA Publications.

Demand and production of Tobacco

3335. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of leading tobacco growers;

(b) what is the number out of them that are licensed;

(c) when were they licensed;

(d) whether it is a fact that some time back, these licences were enhanced;

(e) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(f) what is its impact on the production and demand; and

(g) what steps have been taken to enhance the demand in accordance with the hike in production ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) to (c) Every year Tobacco Board registers tobacco growers before commencement of plantation. There is no categorisation of "leading" growers. The total number of growers registered during 1992-93 are 54338.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Tobacco Board while fixing the crop size for 1991-92 season took stock of the increased demand for tobacco in the world market and decided to increase the crop size compared to previous years to step up our exports.

(f) and (g) Due to the increase in number of registered growers and licensed barns, production of tobacco has gone up both in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

Exports of tobacco and tobacco products are allowed freely, subject only to a Minimum Export Price. Tobacco Board takes the following steps to promote export of tobacco.

- Sending trade delegations to identified markets of FCV tobacco and products.
- Participation in International Exhibitions.
- Aggressive publicity in overseas markets.
- Pursuing with Governments through Joint Committee meetings, etc. to import Indian tobacco and Products.